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### Bridging the Gap - Future

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## Noe Mendelle Bridging the Gap

*"If there is one single DVD I eagerly await every year than it is the superbly crafted and masterfully executed SDI Bridging the Gap series. Bringing together extraordinary talents from both sides of industry to Edinburgh has created a scheme that needs to be applauded and continue to be supported."*

Veton Nurkollari , Dokufest Artistic Director  
2012

*"It is testament to the depth and quality of filmmaking talent working in Scotland today that they are selected for one of the world's most prestigious film festivals. Creative Scotland congratulates the documentary filmmakers and wishes them every success."*

Caroline Parkinson, Director of Creative  
Development, Creative Scotland  
October 2012



## Noe Mendelle Bridging the Gap



### Bridging the Gap:

- Is an annual scheme, now in its 10th year, to develop 10-minute documentaries for international cinema and festival distribution. 53 films made to date.
- Is the only academic body feeding documentary research into production in the UK.
- Encourages female production talent and it has also led to more women being the subject of creative documentaries
- Is representative to demonstrate the vision that I set up in Scottish Documentary Institute on how to nurture documentary talent in Scotland and how to develop a creative documentary language relevant to local communities as well as international audience.



# Peter in Radioland

Directed by Johanna Wagner

Executive producer Noe Mendelle

## Originality

*Peter in Radioland* is an example for all the other 53 films produced under Bridging the Gap, in order to explore the creative process of production.

- 1) This film pushes the language of documentary :
  - By interweaving the personal story of a depressed father with the shift of technology from analogue to digital
  - By using both autobiographical and fictional elements, archive and super 8
  - By mixing documentary and animation to create an emotional engagement with the character
  
- 2) This film pushes the content of mental health:
  - By emotionally involving the audience with strong storytelling skills
  - By raising public awareness of the issues facing its documentary subjects



Winner - International Short Film Award  
Glasgow International Film Festival 2010  
Jury: Cynthia Beatt, Ray Tintori, Louise Welsh

The jury said: *"Peter in Radioland stands apart for its ability to approach a complex and personal subject with unusual honesty and compassion, and for its formal innovation and experimentation with imagery."*

# Peter in Radioland

Directed by Johanna Wagner

Executive producer Noe Mendelle

## Process

I set up Bridging the Gap in order to create a stepping stone for film students to move into Industry while still being nurtured. Johanna Wagner did her MA at ECA and then was selected to do BtG.

I sold the concept of BtG to both BBC Scotland & Creative Scotland. As Exec Producer I am overall responsible for financing, and overseeing the production, as well as being part of the creative team to deliver an original documentary to our funders.

- in order for the film(s) to be pushed to its creative boundaries I set up the nurturing frame around the project by holding various workshops: development, directing, editing. During this period, I collaborate with the filmmaker on extensive research by testing ideas through continuous filming and editing
- I steer the film-making process and provide an alternative funding to the film in order to extend the period of research and creativity
- I facilitated the dialogue between the filmmaker and BBC commissioning editor





# Peter in Radioland

Directed by **Johanna Wagner**

Executive producer **Noe Mendelle**

## Rigour

The film is 10' and took 9 months to make. If it had been a normal commission from BBC the film would have been made in 4 weeks time. By taking longer it means that the entire creative process of making the film is embedded in group discussions and research of documentary language :

- The filmmaker was able to research the content in depth and develop a more trusting relationship with character(s).
- The filmmaker was able to share the creative process with me and the team set up to support her.
- The filmmaker was able to experiment with the form and the content of the film during the shoot but also during the editing and always supported by the team.
- The filmmaker was able to take time to test the film with different audiences in order to measure the emotional impact and at the same time developing audiences to help the film to be distributed.



*Bridging the Gap 6 funded (217K) by:  
Creative Scotland (75K) , BBC Scotland (40K), Skillset (60K), SDI/eca (42K)*

# Peter in Radioland

Directed by Johanna Wagner

Executive producer Noe Mendelle

## Significance

The result from such attention to details in the process of filmmaking means that you end up with a distinctive and powerful film.

Peter in Radioland was screened at 40+ international festivals and picked up the following awards:

- Winner - Best Scottish Documentary Short Award EIFF 2009
- Winner - Anthony Minghella Award for Best UK Short Film Hull IFF 2010
- Nominated - Best European short film nomination for European Film Academy Award, EIFF 2009
- Nominated - International Young Documentary Competition, Leipzig Film Festival 2009
- Nominated - CPH DOX: Short DOX Award 2009
- Nominated - BAFTA Scotland Short Film Award

*“A carefully observed study of the director’s father Peter, who stubbornly remains in an analogue world”*

Hull IFF 2010

*“Mesmerized by its masterful storytelling”*

Nantucket Film Festival 2010





# Peter in Radioland

Directed by Johanna Wagner

Executive producer Noe Mendelle

## References

[www.creativescotland.com](http://www.creativescotland.com)

[www.scottishdocinstitute.com](http://www.scottishdocinstitute.com)

[www.edfilmfest.org.uk](http://www.edfilmfest.org.uk)

[www.cphdox.dk](http://www.cphdox.dk)



## Peter in Radioland

Dir: Johanna Wagner, UK, 2009, 10 mins

*"A carefully observed study of the director's father Peter, who stubbornly remains in an analogue world."*

*Documentary filmmaking is going through a rapid development. New digital video equipment has enabled a creative freedom, which is especially mirrored in short films. The short format is a playground and a laboratory, where both established and upcoming filmmakers can test their new ideas and pursue a personal vision without succumbing to compromises. A freedom shared by the nominated films, and which is expressed by the programme's ten poetic and unorthodox snapshots from the real world."*

SHORT:DOX AWARD Jury – EIFF 201